

service to his State and country. I also wish to recognize Sergeant Mock's wife, SSG Stephanie Mock, who enlisted in the Nevada Air National Guard shortly after the tragic events of September 6, 2011. The Mock family is a true inspiration and illustration of a proud Nevada family who have overcome great hardship through faith and determination.

I congratulate Sergeant Mock on his reenlistment and am humbled by him and all of our courageous service men and women. Let us continue to be mindful of our dedicated servicemembers who fight to protect and preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.●

RECOGNIZING MIYAKE RESTAURANTS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, one of the proudest American traditions is that of an individual who starts out on his or her own, takes a risk, and opens a successful business. Such entrepreneurs are the true drivers of our economy, creating jobs and supporting other small enterprises while revitalizing the areas in which they operate. Today I commend chef Masa Miyake of Miyake Restaurants, who has done exactly this in the city of Portland, ME.

In 2007, Masa was working as a chef in New York City and living in Queens with his wife and two young children. He dreamt of relocating to a place that offered a better quality of life for his children and somewhere with savory seafood. Maine offered him all of these things, and having vacationed on Maine's coast in the past, the State reminded him of the beauty of his native Japan. Coincidentally, Masa actually grew up in Japan's Aomori Prefecture in northern Japan, Maine's sister state.

When Masa opened Food Factory Miyake later that year in Portland, he and his wife and eventually one other person were the sole employees of the operation. As a small firm starting out, they did not have a liquor license, and initially the business was BYOB—bring your own beverage. But through hard work and ingenuity, Masa grew the business and built a respected brand, not to mention an excellent selection of authentic drink pairings including wine and sake.

Today, Masa's two restaurants—the revitalized original Miyake and the new Pai Men Miyake noodle restaurant—employ over 38 individuals. Maine is well known for its first-class seafood, and is really beginning to make a name for itself in the trendy world of sushi and haute Asian-fusion cuisine, thanks in no small part to chef Masa Miyake.

Further, Masa has developed his 3-acre backyard into a small farm. Here, Masa and his staff grow vegetables and raise livestock to directly supply his restaurants and other local Maine businesses, including Rosemont Markets, Hugo's, and the Barn on Walnut Hill. These include rare animals such as blue Swedish ducks, Freedom Ranger

chickens, and guinea hens. This dynamic blend greatly enhances the rich culture of our State, and I congratulate Chef Miyake for his innovative approach to food and hope other budding entrepreneurs will follow his lead.

I am proud to extend my congratulations to chef Masa Miyake not only for his substantial contribution to the culinary scene in Maine but also for recognizing and highlighting the appeal of Maine as a great place to raise a family and start a business. Job creators with vision and big ideas like Chef Miyake are exactly what Maine needs as we work to restore and improve the economy in our small but vibrant and beautiful State. I offer my best wishes for continued success to Miyake Restaurants and look forward to Chef Miyake's future succulent dishes.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:05 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1734. An act to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2606. An act to reauthorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities in the Gateway National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3521. An act to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for a legislative line-item veto to expedite consideration of rescissions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3581. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes.

At 12:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2038. An act to prohibit Members of Congress and employees of Congress from using nonpublic information derived from their official positions for personal benefit, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 99. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to unveil the marker which acknowledges the role that slave labor played in the construction of the United States Capitol.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1734. An act to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of Federal

buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2606. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities in the Gateway National Recreation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3521. An act to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for a legislative line-item veto to expedite consideration of rescissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

H.R. 3581. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2079. A bill to extend the pay limitation for Members of Congress and Federal employees.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4926. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus thuringiensis Cry2Ae Protein in Cotton; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9333-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4927. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of (5) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4928. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the amount of funds the Department of Defense intends to obligate to the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4929. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Financial Crimes Enforcement Network: Anti-Money Laundering Program and Suspicious Activity Report Filing Requirements for Residential Mortgage Lenders and Originators" (RIN1506-AB02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4930. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe declared in Executive Order 13288; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4931. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the